

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1, 7, 14, 20, 27, and 32 in accordance to the following:

1. (currently amended) A client machine which is connected through a communication line with a service providing server machine to thereby subscribe for a service system provided by said server machine in order to be provided with a service independently from one or more other client machines according to said service system, said server machine being adapted to provide a regular service and also a tentative service prior to the provision of said regular service, said client machine comprising:

a tentative service utilization section for utilizing a tentative service provided by said server machine independently from one or more other client machines;

a point value display section for displaying a point value sequentially changing independently from one or more other client machines ~~as a time available in a regular service passes by~~ when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing a tentative service, the point value becoming a time available in the regular service if the client machine registers to the regular service; and

a regular service utilization procedure section for taking procedure steps for utilizing ~~a~~the regular service provided by said server machine independently from one or more other client machines.

2. (original) The client machine according to claim 1, wherein said point value display section displays a point value sequentially increasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing said tentative service.

3. (original) The client machine according to claim 1, wherein said point value display section displays a point value sequentially decreasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing said tentative service.

4. (original) The client machine according to claim 1, further comprising a point value updating section for sequentially updating a point value displayed at said point value display section when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing said tentative service.

5. (original) The client machine according to claim 1, wherein said point value display section is adapted to receive and display a sequentially updated point value transmitted from said server machine when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing said tentative service.

6. (original) The client machine according to claim 1, comprising a regular service utilization section for continuing utilization of a regular service provided by said server machine after procedure steps are taken at said regular service utilization procedure section.

7. (currently amended) A server machine connected through a communication line with a client machine which is provided with a service independently from one or more other client machines by said server machine after said client machine subscribed for a service system provided by said server machine, said server machine providing a regular service and also a tentative service prior to the provision of said regular service, comprising:

a tentative service providing section for providing the tentative service to the client machine prior to the provision of the regular service independently from one or more other client machines;

a regular service utilization procedure accepting section for accepting a procedure for utilization of the regular service that is made by the client machine provided with the tentative service by said tentative service providing section; and

a regular service providing section for providing the regular service independently from one or more other client machines to the client machine said procedure of which was accepted, wherein:

said regular service providing section is adapted to provide a service independently from one or more other client machines corresponding to a point value ~~that corresponds to~~ acquired during the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section ~~for a time lapse up to a moment when the procedure made by~~ until the client machine was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section; and

said point value sequentially changes as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service.

8. (original) The server machine according to claim 7, wherein said regular service providing section is adapted to continuously provide the regular service to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

9. (original) The server machine according to claim 8, wherein said regular service providing section is adapted to continuously provide the regular service to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section and give a point value for providing an additive service corresponding to an utilization situation of the regular service and also give as an initial value the point value that corresponds to the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section for a time lapse up to a moment when the procedure made by the client machine was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

10. (original) The server machine according to claim 7, wherein:

said client machine is adapted to sequentially update the point value as time passes by when utilizing the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section;

said regular service utilization procedure accepting section is adapted to accept a procedure for utilizing the regular service that is made by the client machine provided with the tentative service by said tentative service providing section and also accept the point value updated by said client machine at a moment when said procedure was accepted; and

said regular service providing section is adapted to provide the service corresponding to the point value accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section to the

client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

11. (original) The server machine according to claim 7, comprising a point value updating section for sequentially updating the point value for the client machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service, wherein

said regular service providing section is adapted to provide the service corresponding to the point value for said client machine that is updated by said point value updating section at a moment when said procedure was accepted.

12. (original) The server machine according to claim 7, wherein said point value updating section is adapted to sequentially increase the point value for the client machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service.

13. (original) The server machine according to claim 7, wherein said point value updating section is adapted to sequentially decrease the point value for the client machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service.

14. (previously presented) A client program storage medium recording a client program which, when executed in a computer connected through a communication line with a server machine providing a service independently from one or more other client machines, permits said computer to subscribe for a service system provided by said server machine so as to operate as a client machine which is provided with the service according to said service system, said server machine being adapted to provide a regular service and also a tentative service prior to the provision of the regular service, wherein said computer is specifically permitted to operate as the client machine comprising:

a tentative service utilization section for utilizing the tentative service provided by said server machine independently from one or more other client machines;

a point value display section for displaying a point value sequentially changing independently from one or more other client machines ~~as a time available in the regular service passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service, the point value becoming a time available in a regular service when the computer registers for the regular service~~; and

a regular service utilization procedure section for taking a procedure for utilizing the regular service provided by said server machine independently from one or more other client machines.

15. (original) The client program storage medium according to claim 14, wherein said point value display section is adapted to display the point value sequentially increasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

16. (original) The client program storage medium according to claim 14, wherein said point value display section is adapted to display the point value sequentially decreasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

17. (original) The client program storage medium according to claim 14, said client program permits said computer to operate as the client machine further comprising a point value updating section for sequentially updating a point value displayed at said point value display section when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

18. (original) The client program storage medium according to claim 14, wherein said point value display section is adapted to receive and display a sequentially updated point value transmitted from said server machine when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

19. (original) The client program storage medium according to claim 14, said client program permits said computer to operate as the client machine further comprising a regular service utilization section for continuing the utilization of the regular service provided by said server machine after said regular service utilization procedure section accepted the procedure .

20. (previously presented) A server program storage medium recording a server program which, when executed in a computer connected through a communication line with a client machine provided with a service independently from one or more other client machines, permits said computer to provide the service to the client machine after said client machine subscribed for a service system provided thereby, said server program being adapted to provide a regular service and also a tentative service prior to the provision of the regular service, wherein said computer is specifically permitted to operate as the server machine, comprising:

a tentative service providing section for providing the tentative service to said client machine prior to the provision of the regular service independently from one or more other client machines;

a regular service utilization procedure accepting section for accepting such a procedure for utilizing the regular service that is made by said client machine provided with the tentative service by said tentative service providing section; and

a regular service providing section for providing the regular service independently from one or more other client machines to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section, wherein:

said regular service providing section provides the service independently from one or more other client machines according to a point value ~~corresponding to~~ acquired during the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section ~~for a time lapse up to a moment when the procedure made by~~ until said client machine was accepted by said regular service utilization accepting section; and

said point value sequentially changes as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing the tentative service.

21. (original) The server program storage medium according to claim 20, wherein said regular service providing section is adapted to continuously provide the regular service to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

22. (original) The server program storage medium according to claim 21, wherein said service providing section is adapted to continuously provide the regular service to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section and give a point value for providing an additive service corresponding to a utilization situation of the regular service and also give as an initial value the point value that corresponds to the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section for a time lapse up to a moment when the procedure made by the client machine was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

23. (original) The server program storage medium according to claim 20, wherein:

said client machine is adapted to sequentially update the point value as time passes by when utilizing the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section;

said regular service utilization procedure accepting section is adapted to accept a procedure for utilizing the regular service that is made by the client machine provided with the tentative service by said tentative service providing section and also accept the point value updated by said client machine at a moment when said procedure was accepted; and

said regular service providing section is adapted to provide the service corresponding to the point value accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section to the client machine whose procedure was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section.

24. (original) The server program storage medium according to claim 20, comprising a point value updating section for sequentially updating the point value for the client machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service, wherein

said regular service providing section is adapted to provide the service corresponding to the point value for said client machine that is updated by said point value updating section at a moment when said procedure was accepted.

25. (original) The server program storage medium according to claim 20, wherein said point value updating section is adapted to sequentially increase the point value for the client

machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service.

26. (original) The server program storage medium according to claim 20, wherein said point value updating section is adapted to sequentially decrease the point value for the client machine as time passes by when said tentative service providing section is providing said client machine with the tentative service.

27. (currently amended) A service providing method for permitting a server machine to provide services to a user machine, said services including a regular service provided independently from one or more other user machines to the user machine utilized by a subscribed user and a tentative service provided to the user machine utilized by a non-subscribed user prior to the provision of the regular service, said method comprising:

providing the tentative service to the user machine prior to the provision of the regular service;

storing a tentative service utilization time lapse of said user machine;

accepting a procedure for utilizing the regular service that is made by the user machine provided with the tentative service;

calculating a point value independently from one or more other user machines corresponding to said tentative service utilization time lapse up to a moment when said regular service utilization procedure was accepted; and

providing the regular service to the user machine whose regular service utilization procedure was accepted and also providing the regular service free corresponding to said calculated point value to the user whose utilization procedure was accepted,

wherein said point value sequentially changes while the tentative service is provided to the user machine.

28. (original) The service providing method according to claim 27, wherein information about said tentative service utilization time lapse is displayed at said user machine.

29. (previously presented) The service providing method according to claim 28, wherein said calculated point value is displayed at the user machine provided with the tentative service when said user machine is being provided with the tentative service.

30. (original) The service providing method according to claim 27, wherein said point value is increased as said tentative service utilization time lapse increases.

31. (original) The service providing method according to claim 27, wherein said point value is decreased as said tentative service utilization time lapse increases.

32. (previously presented) A service system comprising:

a server machine which is connected ~~through communication line with a service~~ receiving client ~~machine-machines~~ to thereby provide a service independently ~~from one or more other client machines to said~~ at least one client machine after said at least one client machine subscribed for said service system, wherein: said server machine ~~provide~~ provides a regular service and also a tentative service prior to the provision of the regular service, the server machine comprising:

a tentative service providing section for providing the tentative service to the at least one client machine prior to the provision of the regular service;

a regular service utilization procedure accepting section for accepting a procedure for utilization of the regular service that is made by the at least one client machine provided with the tentative service by said tentative service providing section; and

a regular service providing section for providing the regular service to the at least one client machine said procedure of which was accepted, said regular service providing section being adapted to provide a free regular service corresponding to a point value ~~that corresponds to~~ acquired during the tentative service provided by said tentative service providing section for a time lapse up to a moment when the procedure made by the at least one client machine was accepted by said regular service utilization procedure accepting section; and

said at least one client machine comprises:

a tentative service utilization section for utilizing the tentative service provided by said server machine independently from one or more other client machines;

a point value display section for displaying a point value sequentially changing independently from one or more other client machines as a time lapse available in the regular service passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service; and

a regular service utilization procedure section for taking procedure steps for utilizing the regular service provided by said server machine independently from one or more other client machines.

33. (original) The service system according to claim 32, wherein said point value display section displays the point value sequentially increasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

34. (original) The service system according to claim 32, wherein said point value display section displays the point value sequentially decreasing as time passes by when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

35. (original) The service system according to claim 32, wherein said client machine comprises a point value updating section for sequentially updating the point value displayed at said point value display section when said tentative service utilization section is utilizing the tentative service.

36. (previously presented) The client machine according to claim 1, wherein said tentative service is a non-chargeable tentative service and said regular service is a chargeable regular service.